

CLAIMS:

1. A respiratory mask and headgear combination comprising a respiratory mask having a rigid mask frame, adjustable headgear for securing said mask on a patient,
5 said headgear including at least one attachment strap, said mask frame having rigidly secured thereto a rigid first connector, further comprising a second connector adapted for releasable mating with said first connector, said second connector having means for connection of said attachment strap of the headgear.
- 10 2. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 1 wherein said first and second connectors form a press-release connection between said mask frame and said strap.
3. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 2 wherein
15 said first connector is a female connector integrally and rigidly formed with said mask frame.
4. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 3 wherein said second connector is a corresponding male connector.
- 20 5. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 4 wherein said male connector includes a resiliently biased cantilever member depending from a leading end portion of said male connector and having means for locking engagement with female connector.
- 25 6. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 5 wherein said cantilever member has a leading end, a trailing end, locking means located intermediate said leading end and trailing end for engaging with said first connector, and release means located adjacent said trailing end.
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7. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 6 wherein said release means comprises a raised portion adjacent a trailing end of said cantilever member.

5 8. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 7 wherein a space is provided immediately behind said trailing end of the cantilever member.

9. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 8 wherein said locking means comprises at least one lug on a forward surface of said cantilever member, said lug engaging a corresponding socket of said first connector.

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10. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 3 wherein said first and second connectors are spaced forwardly of the patient's face by said rigid mask frame.

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11. A respiratory mask and headgear combination adapted for single-handed disengagement, comprising a rigid mask frame, adjustable headgear for securing said mask on a patient, said headgear including at least one attachment strap, said mask frame having rigidly secured thereto a rigid secured first connector, further comprising a second connector connected to said strap of said headgear, said second connector being adapted for releasable mating with the first connector and having first and second gripping surfaces positioned for gripping of said second connector between a thumb and finger of a patient's hand and release means positioned for operation by another finger of the patient's hand.

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12. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 11 wherein said first connector is a female connector integrally and rigidly formed with said mask frame.

30 13. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 12 wherein said first and second connectors are spaced forwardly of the patient's face by said rigid mask frame.

14. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 11 wherein said release means is pressed by said finger to depress resilient cantilever member of said second connector.

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15. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 14 wherein said release means comprises a raised portion adjacent a trailing end of said cantilever member,

10 16. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 15 wherein a space is provided immediately behind said trailing end of the cantilever member.

17. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 16 wherein said cantilever member includes locking means located intermediate said raised
15 portion and a leading end of said cantilever member.

18. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 17 wherein said locking means comprises at least one lug on a forward surface of said cantilever member, said lug engaging a corresponding socket of said first connector.

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19. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 18 wherein a leading surface of said lug is ramped.

20. A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 11 wherein
25 said second connector is adapted, in use, for gripping of said first and second gripping surfaces by the thumb and index finger of the patient's hand.